

Isaiah 42

Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 40:2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*. 40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodliness thereof *is* as the flower of the field: 40:7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass. 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. 40:9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him. 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Matthew 12:9-21 And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue: 12:10 And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. 12:11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift *it* out? 12:12 How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. 12:13 Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other. 12:14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him. 12:15 But when Jesus knew *it*, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; 12:16 And charged them that they should not make him known: 12:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles. 12:19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. 12:20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. 12:21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust

Behold my servant, Hebrew servant eh'-bed from bondage, bondman or servant. God owns Him as one employed for Him. Though He was a Son, yet as a Mediator, He took on Him the form of a servant, learned obedience to the will of God. cf:

Philippians 2:1-11 If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. 2:3 *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 2:4 Look not every man on his own

things, but every man also on the things of others. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; 2:11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

V:1 *whom I uphold*, Hebrew: eth-mach bo, on whom I lean alluding to the custom of Kings leaning upon the arm of their most beloved and faithful servant.

V:1 *I have put my spirit upon him*, cf:

Matthew 3:13-17 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 3:14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Spirit not only came to rest upon Him, not by measure as on God's other servants but without measure cf:

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

V:1 “*he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles,*” This is the work which He was appointed to do by the Father. The scriptures teach that here to before God has not worked with the Gentile Nations as He has with the Jews cf:

Psalm 147:19-20 He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. 147:20 He hath not dealt so with any nation: and *as for his* judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.

The Hebrew word, mish-pat translated judgment, means rule, form, order, plan, judicial process, condemnation, acquittal, deliverance and mercy. It certainly means, the Gospel of the New Testament is to be published by The Messiah.

Matthew 5:1-12 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 5:4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Isaiah 42:2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

Notice the mildness and tenderness with which He pursues His mission. It shall not be proclaimed before Him Lo, here is Christ or there as when great princes ride in procession or make a public entry. He shall have no trumpets sounded before Him or any noisy minstrels following Him.

Isaiah 42:3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

The opposition He meets with, He shall not strive against , but He shall patiently endure the contradiction of sinners against Himself. Since the Kingdom of God is spiritual its weapons are not carnal nor its appearance pompous. Those that are wicked He will be patient with when He has begun to crush them, so that they are as bruised reeds, He will give them space to repent and not immediately break them ... even though they are very offensive as smoking flax cf:

Isaiah 65:5 Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These *are* a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

Therefore, He will not break the bruised reed, but will strengthen it that it may become a cedar in the house of our God. He will not quench the smoking flax, but He will blow it up into a flame.

Isaiah 42:4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

V:4 “*He shall not fail nor be discouraged*”, his force shall not be abated or broken, for He shall complete His mission. Cf:

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

By a long course of miracles and finally His resurrection from the dead He shall fully evidence the truth of His doctrine. He will show the Divine origin and authority of the holy religion which He came to establish. The isles shall wait for his law, or wait for the gospel and bid it welcome as if it had been a thing they had long waited for. They shall become His disciples and sit at His feet and be ready to receive the way of salvation.

Isaiah 42:5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

God the Creator of all things, now lets us know who is speaking through Isaiah.

Isaiah 42:6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

V:6 *and give thee, for a covenant,* Hebrew ber-ith, should be translated covenant sacrifice for the people, the coming Messiah will be the New Covenant Sacrifice or sin offering for the people.

V:6 *for a covenant of the people,* Hebrew ol-am, the covenant of the age to come, or, the everlasting covenant.

V:6 “for a light of the Gentiles” Christ the Messiah brings light and liberty to the Gentile nations cf:

Matthew 4:12-16 Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zab'u-lon and Neph'tha-lim: 4:14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 4:15 The land of Zab'u-lon, and the land of Neph'tha-lim, *by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee*

of the Gentiles; 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. (This is Quoting Isaiah 9:1-2.)

John 3:16-21 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Then Jesus applies the same metaphor to all His disciples.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Acts 13:46-47 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 42:7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

V:7 *To open the blind eyes*, In this verse, the prophet sets forth the spiritual redemption under images borrowed from physical blindness. The spiritually blind will be enlightened and receive deliverance. Jesus speaks to the Apostle Paul about this spiritual blindness cf:

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive by faith that is in me.

V:7 *to bring out the prisoners from the prison*, and from the spiritual prison where Satan has them bound in sin.

Isaiah 42:8 I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

V:8 *I am the LORD*: Consider the authority of Him who makes these promises. This is the famous Tetra-grammaton, or the name of four letters, YHWH, which we write as Jehovah or Yahwah. The Jews never pronounced it, and, the true pronunciation of it is utterly unknown. Now God will send the Messiah to turn blind men from the service of dumb idols to the living God.

Isaiah 42:9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Pay attention to God's predictive prophecy, not one word has failed of all the promises He has made the fathers, now God makes new promises for the New Covenant or New Testament.

Isaiah 42:10 Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

V:10 Sing unto the LORD a new song, a New Testament song. David's songs or Psalms were in the language of the Jews but the Gentiles will sing to God this New Song cf:

Romans 15:9-11 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. 15:10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. 15:11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

V:10 *ye that go down to the sea*, Means navigators, sailors, traders and such as do business on the oceans and seas. It is a term used by the Hebrews for distant nations, the islands, and the dwellers on the sea coast all over the world.

Isa 42:11 Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up *their voice*, the villages *that* Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

V:11 "Let the wilderness" the most uncultivated countries with the most rude and uncivilized people. They shall confess and celebrate with thanksgiving the blessing of the knowledge of God graciously imparted to them in the Gospel.

V:11 "Kedar" was a clan of Arabians the rocky country was Petraea Arabia. It is interesting to note that as the Roman army approached Jerusalem Christians recognized Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24 as a warning to them and they fled to Petraea for safety.

The rock is Jesus Christ,

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

I Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

V:11 “The inhabitants of the rock” are true believers, and the singing is rejoicing for the salvation that they have received.

Isa 42:12 Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.

Isa 42:13 The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

Isa 42:14 I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, *and* refrained myself: *now* will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.

Isa 42:15 I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools.

Isa 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Those who ask the way to Zion, He will show lead and bring them home Himself as a Father leadeth His child.

Isa 42:17 They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, *Ye are* our gods.

Isa 42:18 Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.

Isaiah having spoken comfort and encouragement to the believing Jews, here turns to the un-believing. Notice the word *Ye*.

Isa 42:19 Who *is* blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? who *is* blind as *he that is* perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?

Isa 42:20 Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.

Isa 42:21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable.

If men will not magnify the law by obeying it, God will magnify it Himself by punishing them for their disobedience of the law.

Isa 42:22 But this *is* a people robbed and spoiled; *they are* all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.

The Babylonian captivity is coming as punishment.

Isa 42:23 Who among you will give ear to this? *who* will hearken and hear for the time to come?

Isa 42:24 Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law.

The Assyrian Captivity proves the wickedness of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Isa 42:25 Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid *it* not to heart.

The Jewish people are so thoroughly hardened that they represented as being a house on fire and even scorched with the flames they fail to perceive their danger or any feeling of hurt.

This picture of mental incompetence is their sad state to this present day. Many efforts have been made to Christianize the Jews but without affect.

Why should we be amazed at this while we tell them how great they are, how learned, how wise, how much we owe them, and that they are still the peculiar chosen people of God. If all this is true, what can they gain by becoming Christians.

Whereas a more proud, hardened, stupid, ignorant people can scarcely be found in the civilized world and they are most grossly ignorant of their own scriptures.

Sources: KJV Bible. e-Sword, Clarks Commentary & Matthew Henry's Commentary.